



Ohio House Pension Committee
HB 296, Interested Party Written Testimony
Dave Goodspeed, 1st Vice President, Akron Fire Department, Local #330
December 12, 2023

Chairman Mathews, Vice Chair King, Ranking Member Lightbody, and members of the House Pensions Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony as an Interested Party for House Bill 296. My name is Dave Goodspeed, 1st Vice President, Akron Fire Department, Local #330.

My Story

I have been a firefighter for 10 years at Akron Fire, I also had previous experience at Village of Lakemore Fire Department. I attended the University of Akron part-time over several years for various classes. I served 12 years in the Ohio Army National Guard as an E-5 SGT.

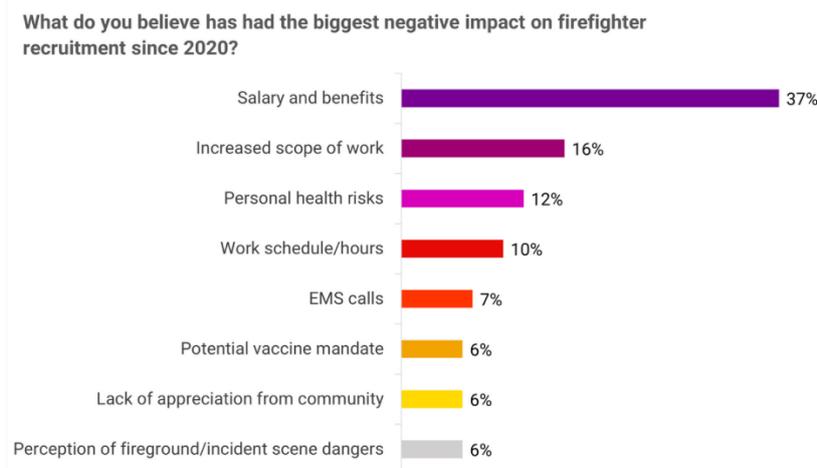
I Could Have Been Both: A Police Officer or Firefighter

I always wanted to be a first responder in my hometown. My college was based on Police (criminal justice). I took both tests, fire and police. I received job offers from both. After talking with friends, family, and other police and firefighters, I decided on Fire/ EMS.

I cannot say that anyone influenced my life to make me decide on fire. I felt that fire/ police was the best way to have a positive impact on my hometown and its people.

Firefighter Pension Was A Main Factor In Becoming A Professional Firefighter

The pension was a main factor in becoming a career firefighter. Without it, I would not have been able to take the position, for my family's financial security. We work gruelling hours in the most difficult of circumstances - put ourselves directly in harm's way and save lives daily.



State-of-the-industry survey, *International Public Safety Data Institute*, 2020

I respectfully request you to vote in favor of HB 296.